Post 10/26/68

Contempt Trial Ordered For Blackstone Ranger

U.S. District Court Judge John J. Sirica yesterday ordered Jeff Fort, a leader of a Chicago street gang, to stand trial on charges that he was in contempt of Congress earlier this year.

Sirica denied a motion to dismiss the indictment and in doing so rejected a contention by Fort's attorney that the Senate subcommittee that had summoned Fort to testify was serving no "legitimate legislative purpose."

Last July Fort refused to tell the subcommittee anything except his name. He is the second in command of the Blackstone Rangers.

The Permanent Investigations Subcommittee of the Government Operations Committee was investigating allegations that anti-poverty funds spent to rehabilitate gang members actually went to buy weapons.

Fort is free on $1000 bail.

The case for the Government was argued by U.S. Attorney David G. Bress.